

September 10, 2025,

Via email

Bonner County Board of Commissioners
Bonner County Planning Director Jacob Gabell

Re: City of East Hope Area of Impact, File #AM0010-25

Dear Board of Commissioners and Planning Director:

The City of East Hope is in receipt of the Bonner County decision letter dated July 2, 2025, reflecting the remand of the City's Area of City Impact proposed boundaries and requesting revisions to "reflect what they are very likely to annex within the next five years." This notice was provided following the June 16, 2025, public hearing

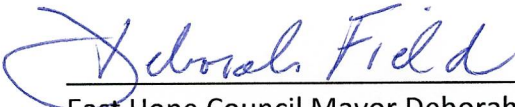
Be advised that the City of East Hope has determined that it has fulfilled its duty under Idaho Code §67-6526 3 (a) to provide a proposed Area of Impact (AOI), by submitting a joint letter and map from East Hope and Hope requesting the establishment of the boundaries (submittal dated 5/21/25). East Hope will provide no further proposed maps or revisions regarding the AOI to Bonner County.

Idaho Code §67-6526 3 (c) authorizes the county to either accept, reject, or modify the city's request. Further, the state code specifically provides that "County commissioners make the final determination regarding area of impact boundaries within their county."

The term "Area of Impact" has lost its meaning. The new state code turns the focus on annexation, and not the meaningful dialogue and shared concerns and planning between the cities and county that has been in place for nearly four decades with the Area of City Impact agreements. Further, this process has cost this small city a great deal of money with little return. East Hope has spent countless hours with Council, staff, and the City of Hope reviewing boundaries and mapping out area of concerns. The City is now burdened by Bonner County for the cost of the legal notices for the June 16th hearing and has little to show for the efforts and money.

East Hope is unwilling to subject itself to further and potentially endless costs for legal notices, mapping, planning staff, and legal costs for this effort. We do not see the city annexing any lands in the next five years and will not be requesting an AOI. Small cities have small budgets to cover the most basic needs. This state mandate came without any funding and cannot be further supported with East Hope's small budget. The City of East Hope considers its job to be complete and will not submit any further requests to Bonner County for an AOI.

Sincerely,


East Hope Council Mayor Deborah Field

c: City Planners
City Attorney
State legislators representing Bonner County area